

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-10, and 12-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 12 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. This indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 20 have been amended to correct dependencies.

DRAWINGS

There was an objection to the drawings in the outstanding Office Action. The specification has been amended and a new drawing sheet is submitted to obviate the outstanding objection. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 4 and 5 were objected to in the outstanding Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims made herein obviate these objections. Therefore, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16, 18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord (U.S. Patent No. 6,455,851) in view of Fellows (U.S. Patent No. 6,281,498). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Independent claims 5, 12 and 17 have been rewritten to be in independent form in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The remaining dependent claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 are now dependent on these independent claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable since they depend on independent claims which were indicated as being allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of this application.


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Serial No. 10/028,724
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Patent

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants' petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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